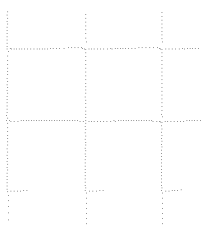


To: Donald Benn (donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov)[donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov]
Cc: Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Allen, HarryL[Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]; Wise, Robert[Wise.Robert@epa.gov]; Nattis, Randy[Nattis.Randy@epa.gov]
From: Manzanilla, Enrique
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 6:58:11 PM
Subject: Fw: Navajo Visit to Gold King Mine

Per your request, here is a more detailed explanation of site access issues. Please let me know your plans. We certainly can rent a van and get you close to the site (the confluence of cement and animas water bodies). But that would be the best we could do today.

From: Harris-Bishop, Rusty
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Manzanilla, Enrique
Subject: Navajo Visit to Gold King Mine



Hi Enrique:

I spoke with the Incident Commander Craig Myers about a visit to the site today. Because this is an active hazardous waste emergency response, any visitors will need to have hard hats, safety goggles, vests, and steel toed shoes. We can probably get the first three items, but the last item must be provided by the visitors. There isn't anything to be seen of the site outside the restricted safety zone, apparently, but I have not seen it personally, since it is more than an hour from our Incident Command Post. The first impacted creek, Cement Creek, where the mine discharges, is running fairly clear today, so they would not be seeing any mine discharge either in Cement Creek or the Animas River.

There is also very limited vehicle access up there, requiring 4-wheel drive vehicles to get to the site, and only 2-3 vehicles at a time can be up there, other than the trained hazardous waste response workers. We are trying to arrange for a local government elected official tour tomorrow at noon with the Region 8 Administrator, and might be able to accommodate two additional people. If the Navajo Nation wants all ten visitors to see the site, we will have to do the tour in shifts due to the vehicle limits.

Please advise how to proceed. The governor of Colorado has also expressed interest in visiting the site today, flying in a helicopter to Silverton, then driving to the site prior to coming to Durango. The state officials trying to plan his visit are running into the same logistical challenges.

Rusty



Rusty Harris-Bishop • Superfund Project Manager • Communications Liaison • US Environmental Protection Agency •

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